



**STUDENT ASSESSMENT NEWS**  
**September 15, 2017**

[Archived Student Assessment News](#)

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## 2017 Smarter Balanced Achievement and Growth Results Released

Use the quick links below to access articles or sections included in this newsletter.

[Summative Assessments Updates](#)

[Special Populations Updates](#)

[Connecticut SAT School Day Updates](#)

[Digital Library](#)

[PSAT and AP Updates](#)

[Interim Assessment Updates](#)

[2018 Summative Assessment Calendar](#)

[Register for E-mail Updates](#)

The complete Smarter Balanced results for 2016-17 which includes the statewide, district, and school results for all student groups are now available on EdSight. Please visit [EdSight](#) (click on Performance, Smarter Balanced). Also available on EdSight are the matched student cohort growth results from 2015-16 to 2016-17 based on Connecticut’s Smarter Balanced Growth Model. To access the growth results from the Smarter Balanced achievement results, please click on “Smarter Balanced Growth Model” located in the left-side panel.

An [e-mail](#) was sent on September 14, 2017, from Ajit Gopalakrishnan, Chief Performance Officer, related to the distribution of Individual Student Reports for Smarter Balanced, CTAA and CMT/CAPT Science. Additionally, please see the [Smarter Balanced Results and Communication Tools page](#) for resources on Smarter Balanced results, including a [parent template letter](#) for the release of Smarter Balanced Individual Student Reports.



## Educators Participate in Smarter Balanced Review Meetings

Thirty teachers from Connecticut have been selected thus far, to participate in item-review meetings for English language arts and mathematics by the Smarter Balanced Consortium. The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) asked some of the educators to describe their experiences at the meetings which were held over the past several months. We will focus on these experiences in this and the next several editions of the *Student Assessment News*.

Christina Frenkel is an Elementary Math Curriculum Specialist for CREC who attended the Smarter Balanced Math Performance Task Item Review meeting for Grade 3. This is what Christina shared:

- *My biggest take away was learning how many people/students review an item before it gets pushed out to the test. We often wonder “who created this question?” It was good to see that teachers from around the country were looking at the items for bias, standard alignment, accessibility, etc.*
- *It was a great opportunity to meet other educators and learn more about the performance tasks.*

Thank you Christina for representing the interests of Connecticut’s students and teachers at this national meeting!



**STUDENT ASSESSMENT NEWS**  
**September 15, 2017**



## Summative Assessment Updates

### Secure Browser

The Windows and Mac OSX secure browser for the 2017-18 school year is now available. This new version of the secure browser is **required** for all 2017-18 online test administrations. **Note:** The secure browser for all desktop operating systems is available for [download from the portal](#). Both iOS and Chrome secure browsers have been updated and are available in the App Store and in the Google Play Store, respectively.

### Voice Pack Installation Guide

The [Voice Pack Installation Guide](#) (for Windows) provides information for downloading the NeoSpeech Voice Pack from the Test Information Distribution Engine (TIDE). This voice pack can be used on Windows machines for English text-to-speech and audio glossaries.

### System Requirements for Online Testing

The document, [System Requirements for Online Testing](#), outlines the basic technology requirements for administering an online assessment, including operating system requirements and supported web browsers. It was recently released for district planning purposes.

### Important TIDE User Update for the 2017-18 School Year

As part of the TIDE system roll-over for 2017-18, **ALL** user passwords will be reset on September 19, 2017. **All users will need to complete the steps below to create a new password.**

1. From the [CSDE Comprehensive Assessment Program portal](#), navigate to the [TIDE login page](#). Select the "Request a new one for this school year" link just below the login prompt.
2. Enter the email address you use for all CSDE Comprehensive Assessment Program systems and select the 'Submit' button.
3. An email (from [AIRAST-DoNotReply@airast.org](mailto:AIRAST-DoNotReply@airast.org)) which contains a link to reset your password will be sent to the email address associated with the account. This link must be accessed **within 15 minutes** or you will need to restart the password reset process.
4. **Within 15 minutes**, select the link and follow the on-screen prompts to create a new password. Press the 'Submit' button.
5. When prompted, set up a security question and select the 'Next' button.

All users who had access to CSDE Comprehensive Assessment Program systems in 2016-2017 will continue to have access this year, after the above procedure has been followed to reset the password. If a user should no longer have an account, their District or School Test Coordinator should follow the process in the TIDE user guide, found in the [Resources](#) section of the [CSDE Comprehensive Assessment Program portal](#), to remove their system access.

Please contact the Connecticut Comprehensive Assessment Program Help Desk at (844) 202-7583 or [cthelpdesk@air.org](mailto:cthelpdesk@air.org) with any questions.

**CTAA**

Connecticut Alternate Assessment

**Smarter  
Balanced**  
Assessment Consortium

**CMT/CAPT**  
SCIENCE

Connecticut SAT School Day



STUDENT ASSESSMENT NEWS  
September 15, 2017



Special Populations Updates

**New Training Opportunity: Alternate Assessment Counts!**

In response to new federal guidance, the CSDE is conducting multi-session trainings to provide needed understanding and the skills necessary to respond to increased monitoring of students with significant cognitive disabilities participating in Connecticut's Alternate Assessments. Each session has multiple dates and locations to choose from.

[Register for Session 1 in person: School-level leaders, Principals, Planning and Placement Team \(PPT\) Chairs](#)

[Register for Session 2 in person: District Administrator for testing, Special Education Directors, English Learner Coordinators, Department Leaders.](#) (For consistency and for federal accountability purposes, attendees for the *Alternate Assessment Counts! Session 2* **must have had** an individual from their school (or district if applicable) participate in *Alternate Assessment Counts! Session 1* training)

[Session 3 Webinar: \(Registration Coming Soon\)](#) District and school-level leaders, certified educators working with students with significant cognitive disabilities, certified educators in general education.

**2017-18 CSDE Usability, Accessibility and Accommodations Training and 2017-18 CSDE Alternate Assessment System Training**

District Administrators were e-mailed a letter regarding the [2017-18 CSDE Usability, Accessibility, and Accommodations Training, and 2017-18 CSDE Alternate Assessment System Training](#). Like last year, both trainings are available as an online or live in-person option.

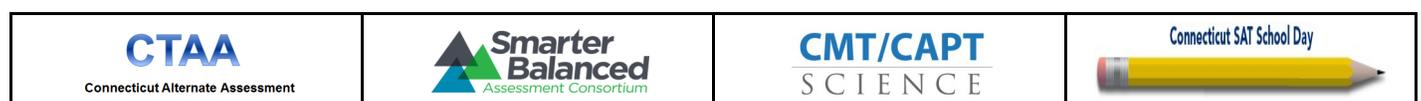
**Note:** In the 2017-18 school year, the CSDE and AIR will be the only ones able to create the user role of Teacher Administering the Alternate (TEA). This user role allows individuals the permissions of a Teacher (TE) role, in addition to the necessary permissions for responsibilities related to the administration of the alternate assessments; submitting the Learner Characteristics Inventory (LCI), accessing required secure alternate assessment materials, and administering the alternate assessments. Only teachers with the user role of Teacher Administering the Alternate (TEA) will have permission to enter the LCI to register students to participate in the Alternate Assessments. Please contact [Joe Amenta](#) or [Janet Stuck](#) if you have any questions.

**2017-18 Testing Designated Supports/Accommodations Form**

The new [2017-18 Testing Designated Supports/Accommodations Form](#) is available online. You may use this form for students with an individualized education program (IEP), a Section 504 Plan and/or for English learners (ELs). As a reminder, there is no need to amend IEPs if you used last year's form and did not make any changes.

**English Learner Assessment Coordinator Contact Information**

In an August 31, 2017, [memorandum](#) provided to current English learner contacts, districts were asked to confirm **ONE** individual per district, responsible for overseeing all aspects of English Language Proficiency assessment administration for students identified as English learners. These individuals, identified as English Learner Assessment Coordinators, will be entered into a database providing the one point of contact for the Student Assessment Bureau and our vendor regarding English Learner Assessment topics.



**STUDENT ASSESSMENT NEWS**  
**September 15, 2017**



**Special Populations Updates (continued)**

**Required ONLINE Administration for LAS Links**

On August 30, 2017, English Learner Assessment Coordinators received a [memorandum](#) from Abe Krisst notifying them that all Kindergarten-Grade 12 students, identified as English learners be assessed ONLINE with the LAS Links Form C for the 2017-18 school year. This English Language Proficiency test window is **January 3-March 9, 2018**. To support this requirement, the [LAS Links ONLINE Technology Requirements](#) are available.

**English Learner Identification Training Resources**

On August 29, 2017, English Learner Assessment Coordinators were provided the following resources for EL Identification training:

- [LAS Links Placement Test 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition Administration Training](#)
- [Pre LAS Overview](#)



**Connecticut SAT School Day Updates**

**Khan Academy Coaching Tool Now Available**



The [Khan Academy Coaching Tool](#) is available on the College Board website. Now, with their students' permission, teachers, counselors, college access professionals, parents, and other educators can use new coach tools to create classes of students, see their progress, and provide targeted help based on their practice activities. Through these new features, it's easier than ever for educators to help their students prepare for the SAT.

**Connecticut SAT School Day School Verification**

On September 13, 2017, an email was sent from Michelle Rosado to Test Center Supervisors and District Administrators regarding the verification of school information in preparation for the 2018 administration of the Connecticut SAT School Day on March 21, 2018. Test Center Supervisors were instructed to verify the information for school(s) contained in the [test administration file](#). The information in this file will be used by the College Board and the CSDE for all communications regarding the test, as well as the shipment of materials for the test, so it is imperative that we have the correct information.

It is not necessary to edit the file directly. Instead, please follow the steps below:

1. Open the test administration file and find your school. The Excel file is alphabetical by district name.
2. Check fields in columns E-R for accuracy.
3. If changes are necessary, send an email to Michelle Rosado at [michelle.rosado@ct.gov](mailto:michelle.rosado@ct.gov) indicating which changes need to be made.
4. If no changes are necessary, send an email to Michelle Rosado at [michelle.rosado@ct.gov](mailto:michelle.rosado@ct.gov) indicating that NO changes are needed.

STUDENT ASSESSMENT NEWS  
September 15, 2017



**Digital Library**

**Digital Library Accounts**



New users to the Digital Library may register directly at the [Smarter Balanced Digital Library Web site](#). You must use a professional (district/school) e-mail address when you register. Users with existing accounts can reset their password at this same site. Once accounts are reset or opened, each educator will receive a "Welcome to the Smarter Balanced Digital Library" e-mail (from [smarter-donotreply@smarterbalanced.org](mailto:smarter-donotreply@smarterbalanced.org)) with access information.

If a new user attempts to register and receives a message that the e-mail address does not match the authorized Digital Library e-mail domains, then they probably have an existing account and should attempt to reset their password. Teachers who have moved recently from other districts should try using their old e-mail address to log-in.

If an existing user attempts to reset their password and receives a message that a Digital Library account cannot be found, they should try to register.

Only District Test Coordinators should e-mail an Excel spreadsheet to [cristi.alberino@ct.gov](mailto:cristi.alberino@ct.gov) if they need to modify existing accounts (i.e., first/last name and e-mail address changes) or to delete accounts for teachers no longer with that district. Please contact [Cristi Alberino](#) with any questions.

**AP and PSAT Updates**

**Advanced Placement Test Resources**

The [College Board](#) announced a new system of resources and supports designed to achieve the Advanced Placement (AP) program's fundamental goal: empowering students and supporting teachers to achieve genuine success. The *AP Question Bank* and *Official Student Practice through Khan Academy* are new supports that will provide students with meaningful feedback that will increase their understanding of course content throughout the year.



In addition, AP students and teachers will be able to take advantage of the following resources at no additional cost, starting in the 2019-20 school year:

- **Unit Guides:** Planning guides that outline critical content and skills for major topic areas within a course, so teachers can focus and deepen instruction.
- **Online Unit Tests:** Formative AP questions that provide feedback to students in which areas they need focus.

**2017 PSAT for Alliance Districts and 2018 AP for Low Income Students**

The CSDE will cover the cost for the fall 2017 administration of the PSAT for Grade 11 students who attend Alliance Districts. Additionally, the CSDE and College Board will cover the entire cost of 2018 AP exams for low-income students who attend public school in Connecticut.



**STUDENT ASSESSMENT NEWS**  
**September 15, 2017**

**Interim Assessment Updates**

The Interim Assessments will open with new items and blocks on September 26, 2017. To prepare for the administration of these Interim Assessments, the systems that support test administration have scheduled maintenance periods that require system downtime. Please see the following maintenance periods for these systems, below:

- TIDE will be down for maintenance from September 8 to September 19, 2017.
- Online Reporting System (ORS) will be down for maintenance from September 18 to September 26, 2017.
- AIR Ways, Assessment Viewing Application (AVA), and Teacher Hand Scoring System (THSS) will be down for maintenance from September 23 to September 26, 2017.

**2017-18 Summative Assessment Calendar**

2017–18 Summative Assessment Calendar			
Content Area(s)	Assessment	Grade(s)	Testing Window
English Language Proficiency: Speaking, Listening, Reading, and Writing	LAS Links	K–12	January 3–March 9, 2018
English Language Arts & Mathematics	Connecticut Smarter Balanced	3–8	March 26–May 25, 2018
	Connecticut SAT School Day	11	<i>Primary Test Date:</i> March 21, 2018  <i>Makeup Dates:</i> April 24 and 25, 2018
	Connecticut Alternate Assessment	3–8 and 11	March 26–May 25, 2018
Science	CMT	5 and 8	March 26–May 25, 2018
	CMT Skills Checklist	5 and 8	March 26–May 25, 2018
	Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) Assessment Field Test	5, 8 and 11	March 26–May 25, 2018 (Grade 11)  April 30–May 25, 2018 (Grades 5 and 8)
	NGSS Alternate Assessment Field Test	5, 8 and 11	April 30–May 25, 2018 (Grades 5, 8, and 11)

**Register for email updates**

To automatically receive the *Student Assessment News* and/or other announcements, [register for e-mail updates](#) on the Comprehensive Assessment Program Portal.

